(a) whether Government have agreed to renovate the Ghoom Railway Station at Darjeeling, to turn it as a Heritage Railway Station;

(b) whether Government have also agreed to build up proper infrastructures at Ghoom Railway Station to turn it attractive for tourists; and

(c) if so, time-frame, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A major part of the renovation of Ghoom Railway Station on Darjeeling Heritage Railway will be completed within the current financial year.

Rail Line from Patiala to Jakhal

5161. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the construction of rail line from Patiala to Jakhal via Samana and Patran; and

(b) if so, what is the status of the project, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to grossly unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to consider this project at present.

Bookstall Contracts through open Tenders

5162. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration that all future bookstall contracts at Railway Stations would be awarded through open tender system;

(b) whether it is also under consideration of Government that all the bookstall contracts existing at present on Indian Railways would be cancelled and the same would be awarded afresh through open tender system; and

(c) if so, what are the details in respect of parts (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGIVIJAY SINGH): (a) the policy on bookstall contracts is under review.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Progress of Rail Projects in Maharashtra

5163. SHRIVIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress of medium and major projects under implementation in Maharashtra in general and Vidarbha region in particular;

(b) if so, the details of financial and physical achievements in terms of funds allocated, released and actually utilised with unspent balance and physical targets achieved each year for the past five years, projects-wise;

(c) the details of cost escalation, project-wise with reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of new projects approved for execution and funds provided therefor, alongwith fund allocation for ongoing projects in Maharashtra, project-wise for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Planning for investments on the Railways is done in a national perspective in an integrated manner. Geographical boundaries of a state or region do not form a basis for taking investment decisions on the Railways. Also, a number of Railway projects span across more than one state and region. State/region-wise details of costs, overruns, financial outlays or expenditure is not maintained for Railway projects.

However, the present physical progress of Railway projects in Maharashtra and New Works in Maharashtra, included in 2000-2001 Budget, are given in Statement.

Statement

Details of Ongoing Railway Projects in Maharashtra

S. No.	Name of Project	Rly.	Status
Doubling			
1	Daund-Bigwan	CR	The work is in good progress.